

Animal Advisory Board

Meeting Minutes

Date of Meeting: 12.04.13

Minutes Prepared By: Rose Armour

1. Purpose of Meeting

Presentation on the Microchip ordinance and review of the Off-Leash Permits

2. Attendance at Meeting

Board Members (*non-voting members)

Rob Blizzard	Jean Linman	Dorothy Winn	Cpt. Williams*
Debbie Donour	Daphna Nachminovitch	Erin Edwards	Seth Cheshire*
Debra Griggs	Tyler Carmack	Barbara Hays*	Dr. Lindsay*

Residents and City Staff

Kathy Galvin	Doug Beckmann	Kimberlie Young	Fredrick Sciulli
Rachel Bellis	Rose Armour	David Freeman	Jill Nolin
Jake Roos	Sabrina Joy-Hogg	Jillian Little	Fred Donour

3. Agenda

1. Review minutes from previous meetings
2. Present suggested microchip ordinance
3. Off leash permits on City beaches
4. Update on NACC Events
5. Comments/concerns from public

4. Meeting Notes, Decisions, Issues

1. Review of minutes from AAB meeting 10.2.13

Requested to delineate the voting board members in the minutes. Voted unanimously to accept minute from 10.02.2013 Board meeting.

2. Present suggested microchip ordinance (6-1-50.1 Registration and microchipping of dogs and cats)

There had been concerns about the cost and elderly animals regarding the proposed microchip ordinance. The proposed ordinance was presented:

Sec. 6-1-50.1 Registration and microchipping of dogs and cats.

All dogs and cats over the age of six (6) months must be implanted with an identifying microchip. The owner or custodian is required to provide the microchip number to the Division of Animal Care within thirty (30) days of the animal being brought into the City and shall notify the Division of any change of ownership of the dog or cat, or any change of address or telephone number. The City shall provide microchip implanting services to residents for a fee of no more than \$20. Residents of low income and senior citizens older than 65 years may qualify for free or lower-cost-service. Currently licensed dogs are exempt from the chipping procedure for up to one year after the adoption of this ordinance. This section does not apply to eartipped community cats, senior animals ten (10) years and older, and animals who are not fit, as certified by a licensed veterinarian, to undergo microchipping.

Discussion:

NACC:

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- Who would manage the database of names and contact information for the microchips? If NACC is required to do it, it could impede customer service, because of limited staff. There would be two municipal entities managing a the same population of animals, e.g. Treasury and NACC
- Do owners register with NACC or the microchip company?
- How does the ordinance work with the Treasury Department's licensing database?
Response: Could the Treasury's license and microchipping be combined? Could microchipping be a required step to obtain a license?
- In the sentence, The City shall provide...what are the expectations of the City?
Response: City would subsidize and it would be contracted out.

NSPCA:

Are there other communities who have a mandatory microchipping ordinance, if so has it increased return to owner numbers? Is there information on the impact of the ordinance?

Response: Daphna will create a cheat sheet on what other localities have done, including,

- Impact on shelter staff
- Determining how the system interfaces with City licensing.

Health Department:

Microchipping could potentially assist the Health Department in animal exposure cases. It might assist with getting closer to connecting with the owner who can provide the history of the animal.

Other:

It is important to provide an incentive for microchipping instead of punitive actions. Perhaps provide specials free with spaying and neutering or other such options.

Military has a mandatory microchipping program for individuals working overseas.

3. Off leash permits on City beaches

The off leash permit issue will be addressed during a working committee meeting. Jean will schedule a meeting for January and Rose will ensure that all attendees are made aware of the working committee meeting date and time.

Discussion:

NACC:

NACC is seeking clarity from the Board as to whether the carbon copy of the American Kennel Club's Canine Good Citizen (CGC) Certification test is sufficient or if the individual needs to submit the paperwork and pay the fee to get the certificate to obtain the off leash permit.

4. Update on NACC Events

- a. Open house with artist
- b. Adopt a Senior Pet Month and birthday celebration for most senior volunteer Ms. Sue
- c. Sorority volunteers came to the center
- d. USS Roosevelt volunteers came to the Center
- e. Participated in the Muddy Paws Fall Festival
- f. Adopted their 1,000th cat for the year in late November (993 dogs for the year)
- g. Able to successfully keep two senior dogs (Chloe and Misty) together. The dogs were adopted to an individual who had been looking for two dogs

5. Comments/concerns from public

- a. Interest in linking to civic leagues to communicate lost animals.
- b. Can NACC and Animal Patrol Unit get compatible software?
- c. Can the City put an animal of the week on the norfolk.gov website?

In closing, the Board voiced some frustration with the response of City Council and the lack of direction that they have received. The Board is requesting guidance from City Council.

David Freeman and Sabrina Joy-Hogg responded to the group stating that they understand their frustration. They mentioned that most often the commissions make recommendations at the same time as the

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Administration and there is analysis provided to allow City Council to better understand the impact the recommendation will have on the City.

The Board does not feel that they have a voice and wants to make sure that they are not wasting their time. They feel that Council wants their work on a fast track, but they do not know how to move forward with the work they have done.

5. Assignments		
Action	Assigned To	Notes
Talk with ComTech to see if it would be possible to reach out to civic leagues and see if there is interest in receiving updates about found animals	David	
Talk with ComTech to see if it is possible to put an animal of the week on the City's norfolk.gov website?	David	
Overview of other localities with microchipping ordinance and the impact on the locality	Daphna	
Schedule a working committee meeting to discuss off leash permits	Jean	

6. Next Meeting			
DATE	TIME	LOCATION	RECORDER
2.05.2013	5:30 pm	City Hall, 10 th Fl	Rose Armour
Agenda: TBA, available prior to the meeting will be emailed to previous attendants			